

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18894 091613Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5337

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18894

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US

SUBJECT: PENTECOSTALISTS IN EMBASSY

REF: (A) STATE 199195, (B) MOSCOW 17691 AND PREVIOUS

1. I AM DISTURBED, AS IS I AM SURE THE DEPARTMENT, ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS' LENGTHY STAY IN THE EMBASSY. THOUGH THEY ARE NOT DISRUPTIVE OF EMBASSY ROUTINE, THEY DO CONSTITUTE A BURDEN AND THEIR USE OF EMBASSY PREMISES AS A PLACE OF ASYLUM FROM SOVIET AUTHORITY MAY SERVE AS AN UNDESIRABLE EXAMPLE FOR DISSIDENTS IN USSR AND OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES (AS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED IN BUCHAREST). AS WORD REGARDING THE PENTECOSTALISTS' REFUGE ON EMBASSY PREMISES SPREADS BY WESTERN RADIO (BBC, FOR EXAMPLE HAS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE PENTECOSTALISTS), OR VIA THE GRAPEVINE, THE CHANCES INCREASE THAT OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WILL TRY TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE WHETHER SUCCESSFUL OR NOT. EMBASSY MOSCOW (AND OTHER US MISSIONS) WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COPE WITH AN INORDINATE INFLUX OF SUCH GROUPS.

2. WE HAVE EXHAUSTED MOST OPTIONS FOR PERSUADING THE PENTECOSTALISTS TO LEAVE. ONE REMAINS, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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SHORT OF THE USE OF FORCE. THAT IS, TO GIVE THEM A TOUGHLY WORDED ORDER TO LEAVE - RATHER THAN PERSUASION AS HERETOFORE - WHICH WE BELIEVE THEY MIGHT HEED. WE PROPOSE THIS COURSE RELUCTANTLY, SINCE IT MIGHT BE READ BY SOME AS TANTAMOUNT TO PHYSICAL EVICTION. BUT WE BELIEVE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS, OF OTHER WOULD-BE

EMULATORS, OR OF THE US GOVERNMENT FOR THEM TO REMAIN
ON OUR PREMISES INDEFINITELY.

3. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS COURSE
OF ACTION, I WILL HAVE IT IMPLEMENTED AT AN APPROPRIATE

TIME IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, PROBABLY AT WEEKEND WHEN
CHANCES OF GROUP'S EXIT BEING WITNESSED BY PRESS
WOULD BE MINIMAL. WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GROUP IS
APT TO BE ARRESTED BY MILITIA IMMEDIATELY AFTER
EXIT. AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE, PRESS WOULD SIMPLY BE
TOLD THAT THE GROUP HAD ACCEDED TO MY REPEATED
REQUESTS THAT THEY LEAVE. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD
REITERATE EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY FOR THE GROUP'S
OBJECTIVES. TOON

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